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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 23 May 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to your note dated 3 March 1994 concerning General Assembly resolution 48/75 K, entitled "Moratorium on the export of anti-personnel land-mines", of 16 December 1993.

In this regard, I have been instructed by my Government to inform you of the following.

The Republic of Argentina has decided to declare a five-year moratorium, without exception, on the export, sale or transfer of all anti-personnel land-mines.

This measure is taken within the framework of compliance with General Assembly resolution 48/75 K, which "calls upon States to agree to a moratorium on the export of anti-personnel land-mines that pose grave dangers to civilian populations".

The moratorium decreed by Argentina is consistent with our country's support for efforts to reduce the serious damage caused by these devices throughout the world, mainly to civilian populations.

The Argentine Republic urges all anti-personnel land-mine-producing countries to resolve this threat to mankind, which claims over 150 lives each week.

* A/49/50/Rev.1.

The moratorium declared by the Government of Argentina on the export of anti-personnel land-mines forms the basis for the development of further efforts to set up a permanent system for the control of such devices. Accordingly, this moratorium is a first step towards mitigating the damage caused by explosions of anti-personnel land-mines.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 64 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Emilio J. CARDENAS
Permanent Representative